

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

STEPHEN POSNER,

Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action No.

RIEXINGER & ASSOCIATES, LLC.

Defendant.

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is an action for actual and statutory damages brought in response to Defendant's violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. (hereinafter "FDCPA") which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive, and unfair practices as well an action for actual and statutory damages brought by an individual consumer for Defendant's violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 (hereinafter referred to as the "TCPA").

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. Subject matter jurisdiction of this Court arises under 15 U.S.C. §1692k(d), 28 U.S.C. § 1331, and 28 U.S.C. § 1337.
3. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) in that the Defendant transacts business here and the conduct complained of occurred here.

III. PARTIES

4. Plaintiff, Stephen Posner, is a natural person residing in County of Erie and State of New York.
5. Defendant, Riexinger & Associates, LLC is a foreign business corporation organized under the laws of Georgia doing business in the State of New York.

6. Defendant regularly attempts to collect debts alleged to be due another.
7. The acts of the Defendant alleged hereinafter were performed by its employees acting within the scope of their actual or apparent authority.
8. All references to “Defendant” herein shall mean the Defendant or an employee of the Defendant.
9. That at all times relevant herein, Defendant owned, operated and/or controlled “customer premises equipment” as defined by the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. §153(14), that originated, routed, and/or terminated telecommunications.
10. That at all times relevant herein, Plaintiff was and is a “person” as defined by the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. §153(32).
11. That at all times relevant herein, Defendant has used the United States mail service, telephone, telegram and other instrumentalities of interstate and intrastate commerce to attempt to collect consumer debt allegedly owed to another.
12. That Defendant, at all times relevant herein, engaged in “interstate communications” as that term is defined by the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. §153(22).
13. That Defendant, at all times relevant herein, engaged in “telecommunications” as defined by the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. §153(43).
14. That Defendant, at all times relevant herein, used, controlled and/or operated “wire communications” as defined by the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. §153(52), that existed as instrumentalities of interstate and intrastate commerce.
15. That Defendant, at all relevant times herein, used, controlled and/or operated “automatic telephone dialing systems” as defined by the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. §227(a)(1) and 47 C.F.R. 64.1200(f)(1).

IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

16. Plaintiff incurred a credit card debt to HSBC. Said credit card debt will be referred to as “the subject debt” in this complaint.
17. Plaintiff thereafter allegedly defaulted on the subject debt.
18. In or about September, 2013, Plaintiff received a letter from the Defendant attempting to collect on the alleged subject debt.

19. In or about the same time as receiving the letter, Defendant began calling Plaintiff on his cellular telephone multiple times per week, often multiple times per day, in an attempt to collect on the subject debt.
20. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff never gave consent to Defendant to call his cellular telephone.
21. Many if not all of the above-mentioned telephone calls were made using an automatic dialing machine as defined by the TCPA, wherein Defendant left artificial and/or prerecorded voiced messages.
22. As a result of the foregoing, Plaintiff became nervous, upset, and suffered from emotional distress.

V. COUNT ONE
(Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991
and 47 C.F.R. 14.1200, et seq.)

23. Plaintiff repeats, realleges and incorporates by reference the preceding and succeeding paragraphs in this complaint as if each of them was reprinted herein below.
24. The Defendant at all times material and relevant hereto, unfairly, unlawfully, intentionally, deceptively and/or fraudulently violated the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. §227, et seq. and 47 C.F.R. 14.1200, et seq. and TCPA, 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(1)(A)(iii) by initiating telephone calls to Plaintiff's telephone using an automatic telephone dialing system and/or used an artificial and/or prerecorded voice to deliver messages without having consent of Plaintiff to make such calls and leave such messages.
25. The acts and/or omissions of Defendant at all times material and relevant hereto, as described in this complaint, were done unfairly, unlawfully, intentionally, deceptively and fraudulently with the express and sole purpose of unfairly, unlawfully, intentionally, deceptively and fraudulently coercing Plaintiff to pay the alleged debt and to harass him.
26. The acts and/or omissions of the Defendant at all times material and relevant hereto, as described in this complaint, were done unfairly, unlawfully, intentionally, deceptively and fraudulently and absent bona fide error, lawful right, legal defense, legal justification or legal excuse.
27. The acts and/or omissions of the Defendant at all times material and relevant hereto, as described in this complaint, were not acted or omitted pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §64.1200(f)(2).

28. As a causally-direct and legally proximate result of the above violations of the TCPA, the Defendant at all times material and relevant hereto, as described in this complaint, caused the Plaintiff to sustain damages as a result of their innumerable telephone calls that harassed, annoyed and abused Plaintiff, and disturbed his peace and tranquility at home and elsewhere.
29. As a causally-direct and legally proximate result of the above violations of the TCPA, the Defendant at all times material and relevant hereto, as described in this complaint, caused the Plaintiff to sustain damages and experience severe emotional distress.
30. As a causally-direct and legally proximate result of the above violations of the TCPA, the Defendant at all times material and relevant hereto, as described in this complaint, is liable to actual damages, statutory damages, treble damages, and costs and attorneys fees.
31. Plaintiff received multiple calls from Defendant using an automatic telephone dialing system and/or an artificial and/or prerecorded voice entitling Plaintiff to Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$500.00) for each artificial and/or prerecorded telephone call pursuant to the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. §227(d)(3)(B),
32. The Defendant caused said telephone calls of an artificial and/or prerecorded nature to be placed willfully and/or knowingly entitling Plaintiff to a maximum of treble damages pursuant to the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. §227(d)(3).

V. COUNT TWO

(Fair Debt Collection Practices Act
and 15 U.S.C. §1692 et seq.)

33. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 32 above.
34. The conduct of Defendant as described in this complaint violated the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. §1692 et seq.) as follows:
 - A. Defendant violated 15 U.S.C. §1692e, 15 U.S.C. §1692e(5) by attempting to collect a debt from Plaintiff by calling his cellular telephone with an automated dialing system as defined by the TCPA without his prior express consent.
35. That as a result of the Defendant's FDCPA violations as alleged herein, Plaintiff became nervous, upset, anxious and suffered from emotional distress.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that judgment be entered against the Defendants for:

- (a) Actual damages;
- (b) Statutory damages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(3).
- (c) Treble damages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §227(d)(3);
- (d) For such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

Dated: May 30, 2014

/s/ Seth J. Andrews

Seth J. Andrews, Esq.

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